San José State University  
Department of Art + Art History  
ART 46: Introduction to Ceramics, Section 03, Fall 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Adam Shiverdecker  
Office Location: IS 124  
Telephone: TBA  
Email: adam.shiverdecker@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: TR 11am-12pm  
Class Days/Time: TR 12pm – 2:50pm  
Classroom: IS 165

Course Description

This course is designed for beginning students in ceramics. Through demonstrations, discussions, and lectures, you will be provided a general introduction to a wide range of ceramic techniques and concepts, including hand-building, introductory wheel-throwing, slip casting/press molding, low and high-fire surfaces and glazes, and firing procedures.

Powerpoint presentations will provide an overview of both historical and contemporary ceramics. Studio assignments will vary in length and involvement and will be followed by group critiques. Engaged participation in critiques is mandatory and essential for your progress. Additionally, there will be a quiz on ceramics terminology and a short reading response/written assignment.

Basic studio maintenance and cooperative kiln loading/unloading is considered part of the class. In addition to studio work, students might occasionally be asked to visit on-campus galleries.

Other Requirements: Ceramics is a medium that demands long hours and constant attention so expect to spend significant additional time outside of class working on your projects (three hours per week is baseline, will vary week to week.)

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. CLO1 Practice handbuilding, wheel throwing, and slip casting/press molding, ceramic fabrication processes to complete a variety of studio assignments  
2. CLO2 Select and apply appropriate surface treatments (glazing)  
3. CLO3 Demonstrate an understanding of some physical characteristics of clay and the firing process  
4. CLO4 Safely use ceramics lab equipment and observe general lab policies  
5. CLO5 Apply a general knowledge of historical and contemporary ceramic art ot class assignments (studio and written)
6. CLO6 Practice and develop critical skills (critiques, class discussions)

**Required Texts/Readings**

There is no required textbook for this course; however, students will find the following helpful:
- *The Ceramics Process* by Anton Reijnders
- *The Ceramic Glaze Handbook* by Mark Burleson
- *Art & Today* by Eleanor Heartney
- *Thinking Through Craft* by Glenn Adamson
- *Ceramics Monthly* magazine
- *Ceramics: Art & Perception* magazine

**Required Materials**

There is no text required for this course, but you are required to purchase your own tools and clay. You’ll need an assortment of tools (needle tool, trimming tools, ribs, fettling kife, small sponge, cutting wire, etc.). Normally sold as a kit, these items are available through the SJSU Ceramics Guild, the Student Union, or Clay Planet (Clay Planet is a local supplier located at 1774 Russell Ave., Santa Clara. Hours are M-F 9-5 and Sat 10-3, 408-295-3352, clay-planet.com.) Additional carving tools will be helpful and can be purchased at most craft stores or Clay Planet. You will also need to provide a lock for your locker, a metal fork (this will get gnarly, so don’t bring in the good silver), lightweight trash bags (tall kitchen bags work well), small plastic containers (quart size yogurt or a little larger), cheap paint brushes of various sizes. You have the options of purchasing clay as needed through the SJSU Ceramics Guild ($10 per bag) or mixing up free recycled clay. Consult me before bringing in other types of clay as it may or may not be suitable for the project and/or the studio and/or the firing technique for the project. A sketchbook is a must (nothing smaller than 5”x7” and you will need approximately 20-30 pages for this class).

**Estimated Cost:** $70

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

**Requirements and Expectations**

**Attendance/Lateness**

You are expected to come to class awake, fed, and ready to sculpt, think and talk. Your timely and engaged presence is expected at every class meeting. Several topics will receive only one day of attention and by missing class you run the risk of coming out of the class with an incomplete set of skills.

You are allowed three unexcused absences. After three absences, each absence will drop your final grade by 5%. You must attend 75% of the class meetings to receive a passing grade. I will take attendance at every class meeting. An excused absence is one for which you have a written doctor’s excuse or for a documented funeral.
Exceptions will be made for people observing religious holidays that fall on days when school is still in session (i.e., Rosh Hashanah), for athletes who need to miss class for competition and for academic/professional related conferences. In any of these cases, please pre-arrange with me and schedule for making up work.

Arriving late or leaving early disrupts the flow of class and undermines your own success. Two late arrivals or early departures (more than 10 minutes) constitute one absence. Please make every effort to arrive on time and prepared for class. Please let me know before class if you will need to leave early. If you arrive after I have already taken roll, please let me know of your presence so you will be marked as late and not absent.

E-mail policy
Although some of us may live by our email, that is not the case here. I will do my best to respond to your email in a timely fashion, usually within the same day. If you have a substantive question, please see me before, during or after class, rather than posing it through email.

Evaluation/Grading Policy
Criteria for Grading
Grading in this course will be determined by a point system. There are a total of 100 possible points that can be earned. There are a maximum of 10 points possible for each of your three hand-building projects for a total of 40 possible points and a maximum of 10 points for the three wheel-throwing projects for a total of 40 possible points. Your contemporary ceramic artist paper is worth 10 points. Your participation and attitude in class account for the remaining 10 points. At the end of the semester these points will be totaled, your final grade will then be impacted by attendance as outlined above. You will receive a grade upon completion of each project. At midterm I will let you know where you stand in terms of class participation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hand-building projects</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheel-throwing projects</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary artist paper</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total possible points</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades for each project will be determined by the following criteria:

- Willingness to explore, experiment and take risks
- Creative though process and problem solving
- Understanding of materials and process and their relationship to your finished work
- Your ability to evaluate yourself and others
- Fulfillment and understanding of the assignment’s criteria and objectives
- Deadline – please note missed deadlines will result in a loss of 5 points per day. Be prepared to work outside of class to meet deadlines.
- Projects may be reworked for a higher grade at my sole discretion and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Please be aware this is a privilege, not a right; this option may not be available to you.
GRADING SCALE

A  Overall excellence, exceeds expectations.
   Outstanding: work demonstrating significant growth; process; participation in class; critical thinking; meeting deadlines; attitude; depth of inquiry; willing to take risks and explore challenging solutions.

B  Impressive but not excellent.
   Very good: work demonstrates growth and progress; healthy process; good participation in class and critical thinking; meeting deadlines; attitude; depth of inquiry; some risk taking.

C  Overall average: work as expected at this level but without demonstrable growth.
   Average: work demonstrates aptitude but not measurable growth or progress; little risk taking or experimentation; somewhat resistant to change, experimentation, challenge; lack of openness.

D  Overall below average: work below that expected at this level and without demonstrable growth.
   Below average: work demonstrates little aptitude, growth, or progress; poor inquiry, critical thinking, participation, attendance.

F  Failure for the course: does not meet minimum expectations.
   Poor: does not meet minimum expectations for one or more of the following factors: work, growth, progress, inquiry, critical thinking, participation, attendance.

Deadlines
You are required to meet deadlines for your work. If your work is not ready at a deadline time, show up for class with the work you have and speak to me.

Critiques
Critical inquiry is vital in the studio arts process, which is why we hold group critiques for each finished project. Occasionally we will hold impromptu mid-project critiques. The purpose of the critique is to engage in constructive evaluation and is not synonymous with “judgment day.” That is to say that we are all responsible for removing ourselves from our work and look at it critically from the outside. We will address formal and craftsmanship concerns while investigating concept, content, context, meaning and interpretation. Everyone’s opinion is valuable in this process so it is essential for your participation in group critiques.

NOTE that University policy F69-24 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”
Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) for more details.

**Classroom Protocol**

**Room Care**

At the end of each day, the studio should be in as good, if not better, condition than when we started. Everyone has responsibility for cleaning up their workspace and putting away or removing their work at the end of each day. At the end of the semester, all work must be removed from the room. Work that remains into the next semester will be thrown away. This is a messy business; failure to clean your workspace is not acceptable and will negatively affect your grade. **CLEAN UP** begins 20 minutes before the end of class. All areas you have used must be cleaned before you leave the studio. Per a healthy studio, cleaning up clay is best done with a wet sponge (it helps keep dust from dispersing throughout the studio). A clean studio is a happy studio.

It is very important to me that everyone can come to class and participate to his or her fullest level of comfort and ability. Making ceramic sculpture requires a degree of questioning what you know, taking risks and embracing challenges. I will do my utmost to promote an environment where mutual respect, constructive criticism, and creative exploration are valued, and I expect the same from everyone who comes in the door. Since active critique of work is a vital part of this class, disrespect towards peers (or yourself) is not acceptable. I ask that you have the courage to speak your ideas and respect the ideas of others.

**No Cell Zone**

Cell phones are wonderful devices that must be turned off when you walk in the door. You can rejoin them later over break or at the end of class. Absolutely NO TEXTING during class.

**University Policies**

**General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student**

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90–5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) for more detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at [http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html). In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

**Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at [http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html). Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at [http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.
Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
  - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
  - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students’ Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union.
Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

**SJSU Writing Center (Optional)**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

**SJSU Counseling Services (Optional)**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
Course Number / Title, Semester, Course Schedule

List the agenda for the semester including when and where the final exam will be held. Indicate the schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>Pinch method demo; Pre-Columbian Ceramics lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>Roundtable discussion; review sketches; begin first project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/01</td>
<td>Joining multiple parts demo; workday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/03</td>
<td>Mid-process critique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/08</td>
<td>Raku glaze demo (exercise 1); Workday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Raku; Terra Sigillata demo; DUE: Pre-columbian project (bone-dry stage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/13</td>
<td>Surface demo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>DUE: Pre-columbian (surface); Rhyton lecture; coil-building demo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Roundtable discussion; Begin Rhyton project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/24</td>
<td>Detail demo/exercise; Workday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/29</td>
<td>Detail work; mid-process one-on-ones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10/01</td>
<td>DUE: Rhyton (end of class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/06</td>
<td><strong>CRITIQUE: Pre-Columbian project</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/08</td>
<td>Underglaze/surface demo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>DUE: Rhyton (underglazed); Cups lecture; Wheel-throwing demo: cylinders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>Wheel-throwing workday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/20</td>
<td>DUE: 5 cups/cylinders; Mug lecture; Handles demo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>Discuss sketches; Wheel-throwing workday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/27</td>
<td><strong>CRITIQUE: Rhyton project</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>Wheel-throwing workday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/03</td>
<td>DUE: 5 Mugs; Dead-Reckoning lecture; slab-building demo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/05</td>
<td>Roundtable discussion; Begin D-R project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>Cold Surfaces lecture; Workday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>Mid-process critique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>Workday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/19</td>
<td>DUE: Dead Reckoning project; Bowls lecture/demo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/22</td>
<td>Wheel-throwing workday <strong>FINAL DAY OF WET CLAY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/26</td>
<td>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12/01</td>
<td>DUE: 5 Bowls, trimmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12/03</td>
<td>FINAL GLAZE DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/08</td>
<td>CRITIQUE: Dead Reckoning project; CRITIQUE: Wheel work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>IS 165, 9:45am-12pm</td>
</tr>
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